

A
P L A N
OF THE
SURRY DISPENSARY,
IN
MONTAGUE-CLOSE,
NEAR
ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH,
FOR THE
R E L I E F
OF THE
POOR INHABITANTS
OF THE
BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK
AND PLACES ADJACENT,
AT THEIR OWN HABITATIONS.
INSTITUTED IN THE YEAR 1777.

L O N D O N :
PRINTED BY JAMES PHILLIPS, IN
GEORGE-YARD, LOMBARD-STREET.

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INTRODUCTION.

AS the poor constitute an important part of every large community, they justly merit the attention and assistance of the rich ; especially in sickness, when they are rendered incapable of supporting themselves and their families. Hard labour, unwholesome food, want of proper clothing, and exposure to the vicissitudes of air and weather, subject them to many disorders unknown to those whose affluence can procure the conveniences of life.

In order to obviate and remedy these evils, many charitable institutions have been founded ; and no city or country has been so highly distinguished

distinguished for this truly laudable disposition, as this great metropolis. Noble hospitals have been erected in all quarters of it. But, upon examination, it was found that these were only proper for the reception of a certain class of patients, and not even sufficient to accommodate one third part of those who stood in need of relief. Many, from a decent pride, did not choose to be found in these publick places of charity ; whilst the affairs of others might be ruined by quitting their habitations ; some, in acute diseases, were received too late, from the length of time necessary to gain admittance ; and others, from the nature of their disorders, became worse, by being pent up in close wards and impure air ; without mentioning the contagion incident to hospitals, which frequently infected most of those who were confined therein. The inconvenience, danger, and indecency of a lying-in

woman leaving her husband and family, at a time when their aid and consolation were most necessary, was apparent. And, above all, young children were seldom sent to hospitals, although so very subject to disorders, that, in London, near one half of them die before the age of two years.

The opulent and charitable therefore sought means to supply these deficiencies, and, happily for mankind, conceived the plan of instituting Publick Dispensaries for the Relief of the Poor, at their own habitations.

Many advantages accrue from hence. The immense sums expended on building and supporting great houses are more usefully employed in relieving a number of objects from the distresses of sickness. The various disorders are treated apart, free from the noise, impurities, or confinement of a publick ward; and from every species

cies of contagion. A very great number of patients are accommodated at a small expence, and those of the most useful part of the poor : for relief is administered not to the profligate and lazy only, but more especially to the industrious artizan, who, without the danger of acquiring vicious habits, by being maintained in idleness, may still live with, and give that assistance to his family which the nature of his complaint may allow ; whilst their necessary attention to him during his illness, serves to rivet more firmly the bonds of affection.

The General Dispensary, instituted in Aldersgate-Street in the year 1770, has in seven years afforded relief to 20,000 poor persons ; and that of Westminster, founded in the year 1774, received upwards of 3,000 patients within the first two years ; both which charities daily increase in governors and patients ; —strong proofs of their utility.

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The north, east, and west quarters being supplied, the south, or that great and populous part the Borough, and places adjacent, still required the advantages of a Dispensary, as none of those already instituted extended so far. The great number of labouring poor, who live in this part, made it obvious how very useful such a charity must be ; and from the former proofs of benevolence that the inhabitants of this metropolis have given, it is not doubted but this useful establishment will meet with their general approbation and encouragement.

The subscription is fixed low, in order to make the charity more extensive ; and, consequently, to give the poor an easy means of obtaining letters of recommendation from the governors.

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REGULATIONS.

I. **A** Physician shall attend every day at the Dispensary, to give advice to such patients as may be able to attend.

II. A surgeon shall likewise attend every day at the Dispensary.

III. A gentleman skilled in midwifery shall instruct the women employed by the charity, and attend all difficult labours.

IV. An apothecary shall constantly reside at the Dispensary, to receive

receive letters and dispense the medicines.

V. Every patient who brings a letter of recommendation from a governor, shall receive advice and medicines at the Dispensary, without regard to place of abode.

VI. Patients who are unable to attend at the Dispensary, and reside in the Borough of Southwark, or buildings adjacent, from Westminster-Bridge to Rotherhithe, between the Circus-Road and River-Thames, or in Newington-Butts, shall be visited at their own habitations when necessary.

VII. Every person subscribing one guinea ~~per~~ annum, shall be a governor, and entitled to have one patient upon the medical or surgical list at a time, and one lying-in patient in the year; and in case of
a greater

a greater subscription, a proportionable number.

VIII. Every person who pays ten guineas in one year, shall be a governor for life, and entitled to all the advantages of an annual subscriber of two guineas.

IX. Ladies, foreign ambassadors, nobility, members of parliament, governors for life, and all governors who reside without the bounds for visiting patients at their own habitations, shall have the privilege of voting by proxy in all elections by ballot.

X. No governor shall vote at any election who has not paid his subscription on or before the day preceding the ballot.

XI. A general meeting of the governors shall be held on the first Wednesday in January, April, July,
and

and October, for transacting the business of this charity.

XII. Fifteen governors shall be chosen at the first general meeting every year, who, together with the officers, shall form a committee to prepare the business for the general meetings.

XIII. This committee shall meet on the third Wednesday in every month, and be open to every governor for life who may choose to attend and vote. Three members shall form a quorum.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are received
by the following Bankers, viz.

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Lombard-Street.

Archer, Bydes, Maud, Watts, and
Co. White-Hart-Court, Lombard-
Street.

Marlar, Pell, and Down, Bar-
tholomew-Lane.

Langston, Polhill, Towgood, and
Amory, Clement's-Lane.

And by the Treasurer.

F I N I S.



